A group of citizens interested in a better future for our city of Carbondale have met several times: sometimes alone, sometimes with the Mayor, City Administrator, President of the Council and the Chief of Police, and once with the members of City Council and the City Administrator.

The original hope of the group was to persuade our city officials to provide better police protection for our area. We intended no publicity nor were we looking for credit or glory. To date we have enjoyed friendly meetings, but have achieved none of our goals. Since October, neither the Administration nor the Council have assumed any positive steps in dealing with the important issues. The present attitude and lack of cooperation between the Council and the Administration give no hope of changing the situation.

Therefore our group looks to the future. We plan to continue our activity not only in regards to effective police protection, but in other areas of government as well. As we studied the issue of Police Protection we discovered a large number of mangement and fiscal problems in our city government: understaffing of the Police department while carrying more staff than necessary in another, misdirection of funds designated for one purpose used for another, an unwillingness to raise the millage all the while inflation was eating away at the budget and city indebtedness was on the rise; Police contributions to the Pension Fund were not being forwarded to the fund, [and Pension ~~three~~ widows were receiving double the legal allotment.] In addition City bookkeeping procedures are not acceptable either to the Auditors nor to the State government.

We are at a loss to understand how a city well on its way to fiscal responsibility, and almost out of debt two to three years ago could so quickly fall so far behind in its indebtedness.

We look to the citizens of the City to express their concern.